

Total Filing Fee \$ 770.00

3. A check including the amount of \$770.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

4. Cancel claims 1-39 before calculating the Filing Fee. A Preliminary Amendment is being filed herewith.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417. A duplicate copy of this Request is enclosed for this purpose.

6. Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line:

--This is a continuation application of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/419,186, filed April 21, 2003; which is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 10/166,089, filed June 11, 2002; which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/734,164, filed December 12, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,411,440; which is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 09/327,191, filed June 7, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,201,645. This application is related to U.S. Application Serial No. 09/793,599, filed February 27, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,392,809, and U.S. Application Serial No. 10/095,567, filed March 13, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,545,812.--.

7. New drawings are enclosed, six (6) sheets, Figs. 1-6E.

8. The power of attorney is set forth in the Declaration in the prior application or an associate power of attorney is hereby granted to:

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There is no change in the correspondence address.

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Please associate this application with **Customer No. 24956**.

9. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi, Ltd.

10. Priority of the following Japanese patent applications is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

No. JP 10-158788, filed June 8, 1998;
No. JP 10-161789, filed June 10, 1998; and
No. 10-275828, filed September 29, 1998.

The certified priority documents have been filed in the parent application.

The undersigned hereby declares that no matter contained in the specification, including the claims, and drawings filed in the present continuation application would have been new matter in the prior application Serial No. 10/419,186, as originally filed on April 21, 2003.

for Gene W Stockman RN21,021
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